

GULF DEFENDER



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Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

April 22, 2005

In brief

Gulf Coast Salute 2005

This year's air show will be May 14-15 and will feature the nine-jet aerial demonstration team, Canadian Snowbirds, the U.S. Army "Golden Knights" jump team and an array of civilian and military aerial performances. Admission and parking are free. For more information, visit the official Web site at www.schultzairshows.com/tyndall2005.htm or e-mail pacontacts@tyndall.af.mil.



What's inside



ABM students learn 'the scopes'

... PAGE 11

The ORI is coming ...



... 58 days and counting

Exercise prepares Airmen for ORI

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tyndall's final exercise before June's Operational Readiness Inspection wrapped up April 14, leaving only two more months for units to prepare for the upcoming inspection.

This month's exercise focused on testing and evaluating Tyndall's response to an F/A-22 Raptor crash with mass casualties, deployments, increased terrorist threats and base fires. The wing even experienced a change in leadership following a scenario that removed both the wing and vice commander.

According to Maj. Erik Joy, 325th Fighter Wing chief of Wing Plans, exercises and ORIs are vital to preparing Airmen for scenarios that could someday happen for real.

"Exercises test how we respond to real-world incidents, and ORIs evaluate how well we respond," he said. "Furthermore, the training Airmen receive during exercises helps us remain proficient at tasks we don't normally get to perform."

Major Joy said exercises also help point out areas that need improvement, so people can fix the problem before an ORI, or before the event actually happens.

"For example, we simulated a Raptor crash during an air show," he said. "This is a fairly new aircraft, so we may not already be very familiar with the procedures for reacting to this type of aircraft crash. The exercise helped us identify what needs to happen and what we should plan for in the event of an actual crash."



Steve Wallace

Airmen Nicholas Faria, left, and Robert Perricone, both 325th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters, treat an 'accident' victim at a major accident response exercise April 13. The week-long exercise included such scenarios as an F/A-22 Raptor crash, base fires and a change in wing leadership following the removal of the wing's commander and vice commander.

During the upcoming ORI, Airmen can expect to see familiar scenarios like this or past exercise scenarios resurface. The ORI team will likely simulate events such as a plane crash or a terrorist attack to test Tyndall's response, Major Joy continued.

"The team will tell (the Wing Plans office) what they want to see coordinated, such as a simulated plane crash, and we will come up with a plan to make the scenario work," he said. "They will then evaluate us on how well we evaluate the base."

The ORI team will also be evaluating the base at the same time. Contrary to past exercises, the

team will operate force protection upgrades, deployment lines and most other aspects, which means everything and everybody will be evaluated down to the last detail, the major said.

According to Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th FW commander, Tyndall is ready for the challenge.

"I'm amazed at how well Tyndall Airmen consistently perform under the pressures of exercise scenarios and real-world events," he said. "The lessons we've learned and the experience we've gained from past exercises will surely pay huge dividends when it comes time to face the inspectors. I'm confident they will leave here feeling

nothing less than impressed."

Major Joy echoed the general's remarks, but added it's important for everyone to remember the ORI team will be evaluating Tyndall on more than exercise responses during their nine-day stay here.

"They will also be visiting each work center and evaluating them individually on how well they execute their duties in compliance with regulations," he said. "But if people have all their programs and paperwork in order, and we do as well in the ORI exercises as we've been doing in past exercises, I think we will do well during the ORI. Just be ready to work hard."

Don't miss Gulf Coast Salute 2005 May 14 and 15

Warrior’s heart driven by pride in service

SENIOR MASTER SGT. ALFREDO LOPEZ III
325th Aircraft Maintenance Unit

I am what some may consider a dinosaur, a relic of a bygone era where love of country and pride in service comes first, and all the trappings of our service’s benefits come second. Heck, I still tear up when I hear the national anthem or “Taps.”

I think it’s great that we have all the benefits we have today to better ourselves, such as tuition assistance, bonuses, Tricare, single rooms in dorms for our young troops and hundreds of others I could list. These are, after all, our primary selling points to young people today to get them to join us in the Air Force and important in maintaining morale. In many ways I think we spend too much time touting our benefits and not enough time talking about pride for our service and our proud military history.

We have a lot to be proud of here at Tyndall, and we should spend more time talking to our fellow warriors about what we are here for, which is to train an air dominance team of pilots, maintainers, air

battle managers, air traffic controllers and intelligence specialists. Quite frankly, we are here to teach warriors to make targets dead. That may sound harsh, but that really is the bottom line. Aside from all that, we’re involved in the Global War on Terrorism, whether here on our soil or at deployed locations around the world.

Being a first sergeant, I too often hear at times warriors discussing how bad things are and the discussion seems to always center on the lack of pay, shortage of manpower, long hours, deployments, exercises and other negative influences beyond our control. Is it any wonder we have difficulty at times retaining young warriors for continued service in our fighting force? Is this the best way to get a return on the investment we have made in their training? If all you ever heard were negative things about your squadron, would you want to stay there?

Certainly I would love to make more money, and a few more warriors to help get the job done wouldn’t hurt either. But if I allow myself to let those concerns drive

my actions and blur my focus, I couldn’t do my job. I certainly couldn’t create an atmosphere where warriors would be proud of what they do.

Don’t get me wrong, I don’t have my head buried in the sand. I know we have many challenges ahead and things are not as good as we would like them to be. However, they are not as bad as some people try to make them out to be. Our senior leaders acknowledge these and other areas that require attention, and they are working hard to address these issues. Recent pay raises and better quality of life issues are some examples. Our job as warriors is to do the best we can with what we have and keep faith that our leaders will not let us down.

Maybe it’s my personal focus that sets me apart from the naysayers among us. I joined the Air Force more than 20 years ago because I wanted to be part of a team that protected America. I still believe that today, and that is what keeps me going. That is why I crawl out of bed every day and give everything I have when I get to work. You

never know what little job, what little detail, could make the difference in sharpening our combat readiness and one day save lives in combat.

You’re probably wondering by now – what’s this first sergeant’s point? Well it’s simple. Don’t get lost in all the negative chatter. Keep your eye on the ball, and remind yourself daily how important our vigilance is to the free people of the earth. More importantly, make sure your fellow warriors understand how important they are to the mission. We are the foundation of our nation’s freedom.

Allow me to close with a favorite quote of mine. It is from the past General of the Army, Douglas MacArthur. He made this simple but powerful statement as part of his farewell address to the cadet corps at West Point in 1962. Although they were spoken many years ago, they ring as true today as the day he uttered them. These words will bring you back to center and speak to the warrior’s heart that beats within you:

“Duty ... Honor ... Country.”

Earth Day time to reflect on what Tyndall can do for environment

BERT LENT
325th Civil Engineer Squadron

It is hard for me to believe that today we will celebrate the 35th anniversary of Earth Day. For many, Earth Day has been an annual occurrence for as long as they can remember. For me, however, the first Earth Day in 1970 was a very significant event, and the memory of that celebration is as clear as if it were yesterday.

Because the natural environment had always been important to me, having the United States recognize it with a formal day of celebration felt both appropriate and encouraging. After all, Earth is the only place we have to live, at least for the foreseeable future, and it seemed to me that the disastrous consequences of not taking seriously the need to protect the world’s natural environmental resources should be clear to everyone. It was for this reason, almost 30 years ago, I chose a career in environmental protection, the last 10 of which have been spent at Tyndall in the Envi-

ronmental Flight of the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Since that first Earth Day celebration, we here in Florida have had our own issues to deal with: The Everglades restoration project; Florida Bay in the Keys experiencing significant coral reef loss due to pollution from a burgeoning population in south Florida; during the summer, concerns of red tide and the tragic deaths of scores of porpoises due to mysterious diseases, often implicating polluted waters; potable water shortages in parts of Florida where growth is outstripping the ability for the infrastructure to keep up; seasonal fish kills; communities running out of landfill space; citrus canker and more.

As always, when considering environmental concerns such as these, present impacts are only part of the picture. The future, which belongs to our children, grandchildren and beyond, literally depends on how we deal with these issues today.

The United States has an obligation to set an ex-



2nd Lt. William Powell

A North American osprey returns to its home at the skeet range here Sunday. Tyndall is home to multiple ospreys, as well as many other protected or endangered species of plants and animals.

ample for the rest of the world when it comes to wise stewardship of natural resources. What we have learned, from improvements in science and pollution

● SEE NATURE PAGE 17

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For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

Tyndall weather civilian named best in Air Force

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A Tyndall civilian was recently named the top weather civilian in the Air Force for 2004.

Dan Sheldon, 325th Operations Support Squadron meteorological technician, received the award soon after winning best weather civilian in Air Education and Training Command for the third-straight year.

"I was surprised to win the award three times for AETC, but the Air Force-level award came out of the blue," he said. "A lot of things have happened unexpectedly to me in my Air Force career."

Mr. Sheldon has long been considered a subject-matter expert in weather. He has spent more than 36 years dedicated to providing accurate and timely weather information to Tyndall and other military installations.

The retired senior master sergeant is now tasked with training every Airman assigned to the weather flight here.

According to Tech. Sgt. Yasmeen Wilson, 325th OSS mission services NCO-in-charge, his expertise and training helped Tyndall's 13-member weather flight also earn best in AETC honors for 2004.

"Mr. Sheldon has more experience in weather than practically all of us combined," she said. "He has trained everyone, from the flight commander to the youngest Airman, and he is always eager to help when we need it. He's lived in Florida for a long time, so his knowledge of local weather patterns and regimes provides great continuity."

Mr. Sheldon said Tyndall's weather flight remains busy year-round tracking hurricanes in the summer and fall and from daily changes in weather due to the tropical climate.

"This year's hurricane season will probably be



2nd Lt. William Powell

Dan Sheldon, 325th Operations Support Squadron meteorological technician, reviews radar imagery reference materiel with Tech. Sgt. Yasmeen Wilson, 325th OSS mission services NCO-in-charge. Mr. Sheldon recently earned top honors as the Air Force's best weather civilian.

about as busy as last year's," he said. "Thirteen named storms are predicted, with seven becoming hurricanes. Three are expected to be intense."

Yet no matter how bad the weather will get, Tyndall can rest assured it has one of the best weather flights and the best civilian forecaster in the Air Force working hard to inform the public of potential dangers. And Mr. Sheldon plans to keep working hard here for years to come.

"I'll probably be working here for another 10 years and then retire for the second time," he said.

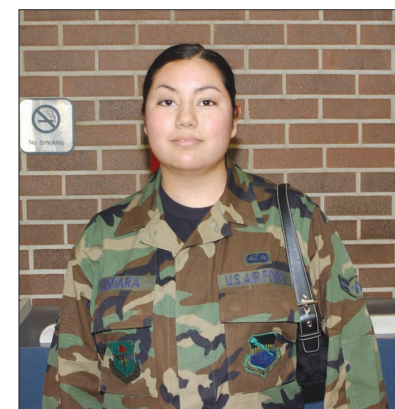
ON THE STREET

What do you think makes a good supervisor?



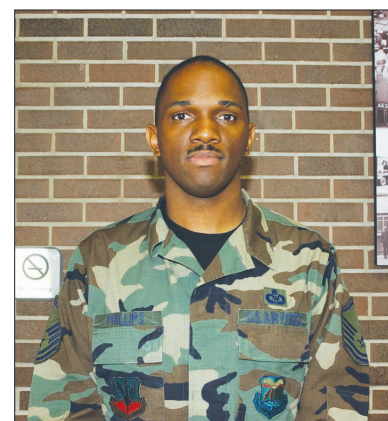
"Someone who can be a good leader, but also knows what it means to be a follower."

2ND LT. ANDY RICHMOND
325th Air Control Squadron



"Leading by example, and being there for your troops."

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ELIZABETH QUINDARA
325th Operations Support Squadron



"Effective communication, positive and negative, up the chain, down the chain and laterally."

MASTER SGT. EUGENE PHILLIPS
Southeast Air Defense Sector



"A person with good managerial skills and leadership traits."

TECH. SGT. EDWARD MCGINNIS
NCO Academy student

Action Line Call 283-2255



BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you're not satisfied with the response or

you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General's Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.

Below are more phone numbers that help you in resolving any issues with a base agency.

Commissary	283-4825
Pass and I.D.	283-4191
Medical and Dental	283-7515
MEO	283-2739

MPF	283-2276
SFS Desk Sgt.	283-2254
Services	283-2501
Legal	283-4681
Housing	283-2036
CDC	283-4747
Wing Safety	283-4231
Area Defense Counsel	283-2911
Finance	283-4117
Civil Engineer	283-4949
Civilian Personnel	283-3203
Base Information	283-1113

Thank you for helping me improve Tyndall and I look forward to hearing from you.

Tyndall Airman’s actions save neighbor’s home

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A Tyndall Airman recently extinguished a house fire that threatened to destroy a Panama City home.

At home on quarters for a severe sinus infection, Master Sgt. Dave Delmar, 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron plans and programs NCO-in-charge, used common garden hoses to extinguish the fire, which saved his neighbors’ home and most of their possessions.

“At about 12:30 p.m. my neighbor’s 18-year-old son, Shaun, ran to my house screaming his house was on fire,” Sergeant Delmar said.

The sergeant then ran next door to the neighbor’s house and saw the living room fully engulfed in flames with thick black smoke billowing out the front door.

“I first made sure everyone was out of the house, which they were, and asked Shaun’s aunt to call 911,”

he said. “Then I ran to the back of the house to retrieve a garden hose and entered the house through the back porch, which was the closest to the flames. I crouched as low as I could because the thick smoke and extreme heat were intense.”

Sergeant Delmar said he knew he had to act quickly or the fire could potentially destroy the home, and possibly spread to other homes because of the strong winds that day.

“I pointed the hose at the base of the flames and told Shaun to get the second hose outside,” he continued.

To reduce harmful smoke inhalation, Sergeant Delmar quickly ran home to retrieve a respirator he uses to paint cars.

“I returned to the fire, grabbed both hoses and went into the house,” he said. “I sprayed the fire until everything was extinguished, and I was shocked that I put it all out with the hoses.”

At that time, the local fire department arrived on scene and set up a fan to blow out the remaining black smoke hovering throughout the home.

According to Lt. Terry Raffield, Southport Fire Department chief, Sergeant Delmar’s actions saved the house from suffering catastrophic damage, but it was a risky endeavor.

“Sergeant Delmar got to the fire at the opportune time, because if the fire gained any more strength he wouldn’t have been able to put out the fire with garden hoses,” Lieutenant Raffield said. “He did an outstanding, courageous thing and I know his neighbors must be happy. But if things had gotten worse, he could have been in serious trouble.”

The sergeant, who is also the squadron’s safety representative, said he did consider his personal



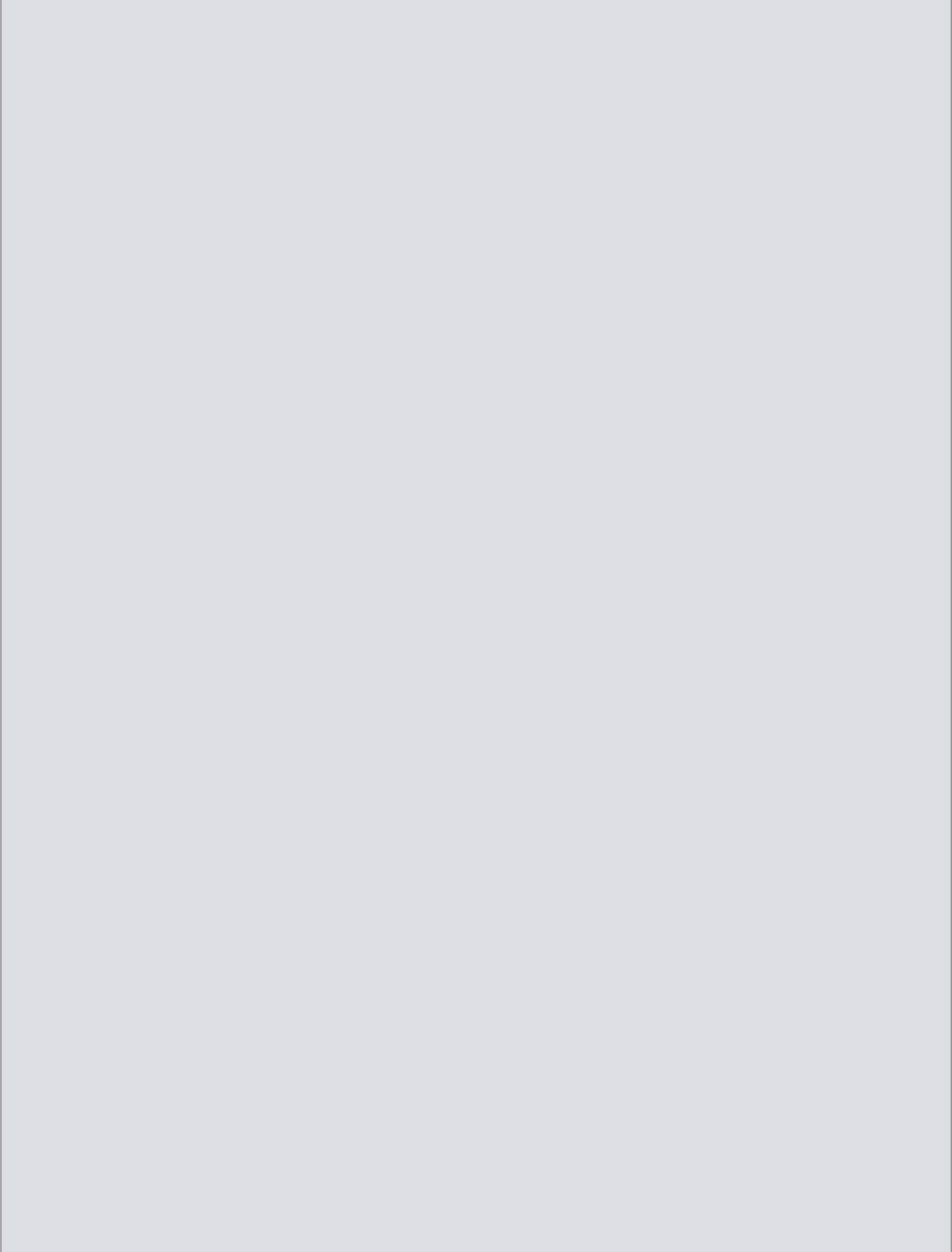
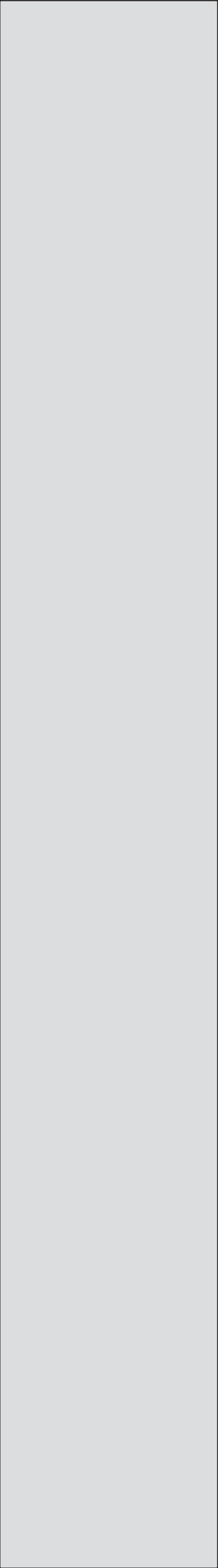
2nd Lt. William Powell

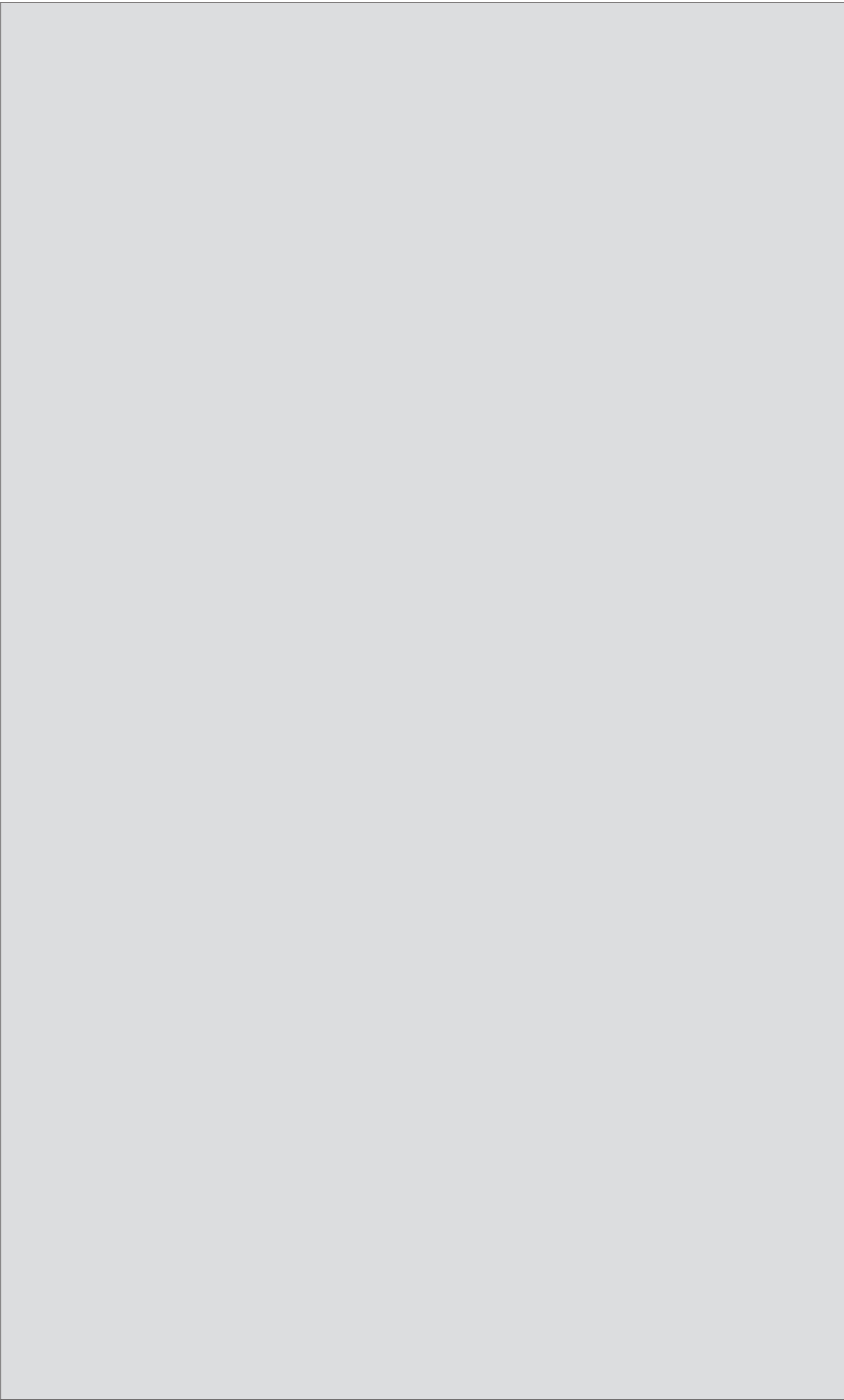
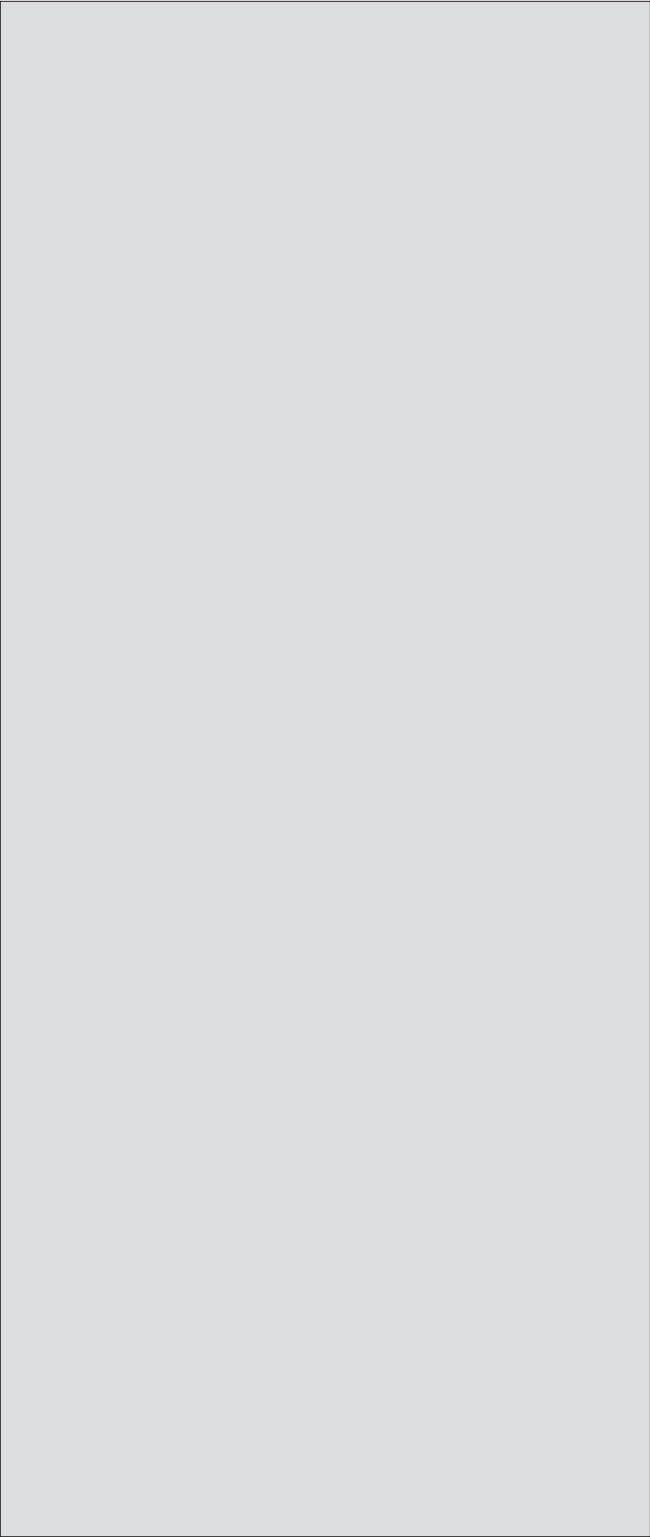
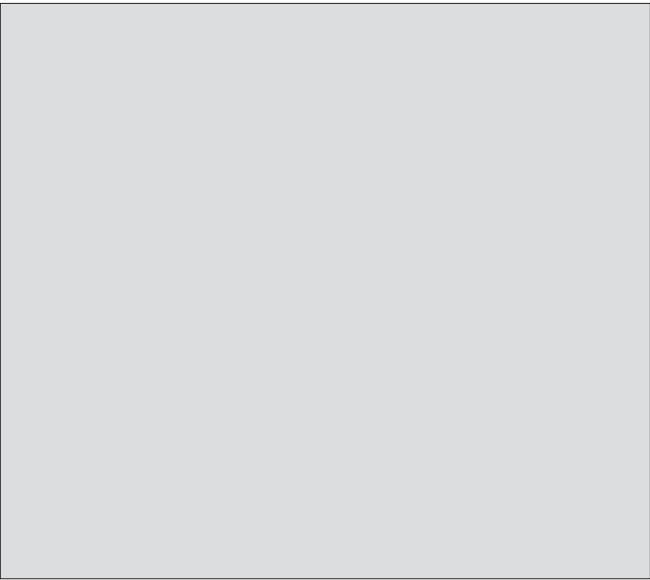
Master Sgt. Dave Delmar, 82nd Aerial Targets Squadron, moves a QF-4 Phantom II display to a new location at Hangar 5. Sergeant Delmar recently extinguished a fire that threatened to destroy his neighbor's house and possibly his own.

safety but never felt his own life was at risk. He also attributes his success to years of fire extinguishing training obtained through the military.

Despite possibly risking his life, he said he felt good being able to help his neighbors keep their home and most of their possessions.

“It was just natural instinct to help,” he said.





Congratulations to
Tyndall’s newest Senior
NCO Academy graduate:



Master Sgt.
Ronald Hagen
325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

Black bear spotted on Tyndall AFB

2ND LT. JACLYN MEACHUM
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A Florida black bear has been seen recently roaming areas of Tyndall base housing, and all residents are advised to be on the lookout for the animal.

The 325th Civil Engineer Squadron Natural Resources Flight is attempting to catch the bear and relocate it to a less-populated area in Apalachicola, said Wesley Westphal, Natural Resources Flight element chief.

“We set a trap that looks like a large pipe with a trap door,” he said. “The door is extremely heavy and can be harmful to humans, so residents are advised to stay clear of it if they find it.”

In the meantime, Mr. Westphal said base residents should follow a few simple tips to ensure safety and avoid contact with bears.

“First, never approach the bear,” he said. “If you come upon a bear in a tree, leave the area and allow the bear to come down on its own. The bear will likely leave quietly once the area is clear of human activity.”

People should also avoid feeding the bear. Not only will this entice the bear to return, it is unsafe and against Florida law, said Mr. Westphal.

“The best thing you can do is avoid leaving potential food sources outside your house,” he said. “Garbage cans, pet food, bird feeders and barbecue grills are just a few of the many things that may lure a bear out of its habitat and into a neighborhood.”

Fruits, berries and sweets are particularly enticing, and care should be taken to prevent leaving these items out. Putting trash out the morning of pick-up instead of the night before will help deter bears from searching neighborhoods for scraps.

Mr. Westphal added it’s important to remember these protected creatures are naturally shy and typically avoid confrontation with humans unless provoked.

Anyone who spots a bear should call the Natural Resources Flight at 283-2641 or 283-2822 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday–Friday, or the 325th Security Forces Squadron at 283-2254.

Child abuse prevention tips:

Managing anger starts at home

Adults aren't the only ones faced with difficult situations, and managing anger at home is one way to teach children how to handle their frustration.

Children show their anger in different ways and for different reasons as they grow from their infancy through early childhood. Parents need to understand these different stages and how best to introduce anger management skills as the child matures.

While each child is different, the following generally describes these stages of anger:

- **Babies:** Babies get angry because they are hungry, sick, or startled by a loud noise. They show anger by crying and thrashing their arms and legs, attracting adults to their aid.
- **Toddlers:** Toddlers can be easily frustrated when they cannot do what they want. They have limited language skills but can begin to communicate their feelings with few

words. Since they can't control their emotions very well, tantrums may occur.

- **Children ages 3 to 5:** Children gradually understand more and get angry about what people say, as well as what they do. They express themselves better and begin to aim their aggression at hurting someone else by actions – like hitting – or using threatening words.
- **Children ages 6 to 8:** Children should be able to learn to control their anger and channel it to resolve unfair situations. They can understand another person's point of view and feelings, and they value belonging and acceptance by peers.

Since young children learn by watching the adults around them, it is important for parents to learn to control their own anger, so they can teach by example the important messages of violence prevention. There are some basic messages adults

need to convey to children as they grow up: It's OK to be angry; there are "OK" ways and "not OK" ways to show your anger; it's not OK to hurt anyone, to break things, or to hurt pets when you are angry; it's OK to tell someone that you are angry; and there are ways to calm yourself when you are angry.

The right resources can help parents learn more about anger management – both for their children and for themselves. These skills can promote harmony within the family and also help children to be successful in making friends and resolving conflicts within the family and outside.

For more information about managing anger, Family Advocacy provides a four-session information workshop. Those interested may call 283-7511 to sign up.

(Courtesy of Family Advocacy Office)



ORI TIP OF THE WEEK

Week 8:

Mobility commitments are a big part of a wing's inspection. If you are on a unit type code, make sure your documents are in order, shots are up to date and all required training is completed and documented.

Did you miss past issues of the Gulf Defender? Don't fret!

We're online: www.tyndall.af.mil/News/news.htm.



Chatting on Air Force Portal requires decorum

TECH. SGT. DAVID A. JABLONSKI
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Airmen are chatting it up in growing numbers using the Air Force Portal’s instant messaging service.

But recent inappropriate comments made by some Airmen in chat rooms led officials to clarify responsible communication over the service.

“The majority of the 7,000 plus Airmen using (Air Force Instant Messenger) in a given week are using it exactly as it was intended,” said Maj. David Gindhart, Air Staff lead for the portal. “Unfortunately, a small group of individuals forgot that our core values, military decorum and professionalism still apply when in a chat room.”

It is no different than having a con-

versation on or off base, whether in uniform or not. Airmen cannot forget who they are talking to and that they are representing the Air Force, he said.

“This is especially troubling when ranks appear on the screen,” Major Gindhart said. “Some officers and senior (noncommissioned officers) forget they are setting the example for younger Airmen.”

Officials in the Air Force chief information office recently defined inappropriate use and clarified chat guidelines.

Inappropriate use includes sexual harassment, sexually explicit, or racist dialogue. In addition, while the instant messenger supports informal dialogue, the Air Force military rank structure establishes expectations for leader responsibility and accountability. Air Force In-

struction 33-129, Web Management and Internet Use, covers the use of Internet resources by government employees. Military Equal Opportunity, AFI 36-2706, describes the limits of professional communication.

Certain controls and conditions have also been added, officials said. A warning banner reminds Airmen they have no expectation of privacy and use of the system is consent to monitoring. The service is limited to official and authorized appropriate use and cannot contain classified information or operational security information.


Chats may be logged, creating an official record. A self-monitoring system allows users to report misuse, but other forms of monitoring will take place, officials said.

Besides defining inappropriate use, officials listed specific prohibitions:

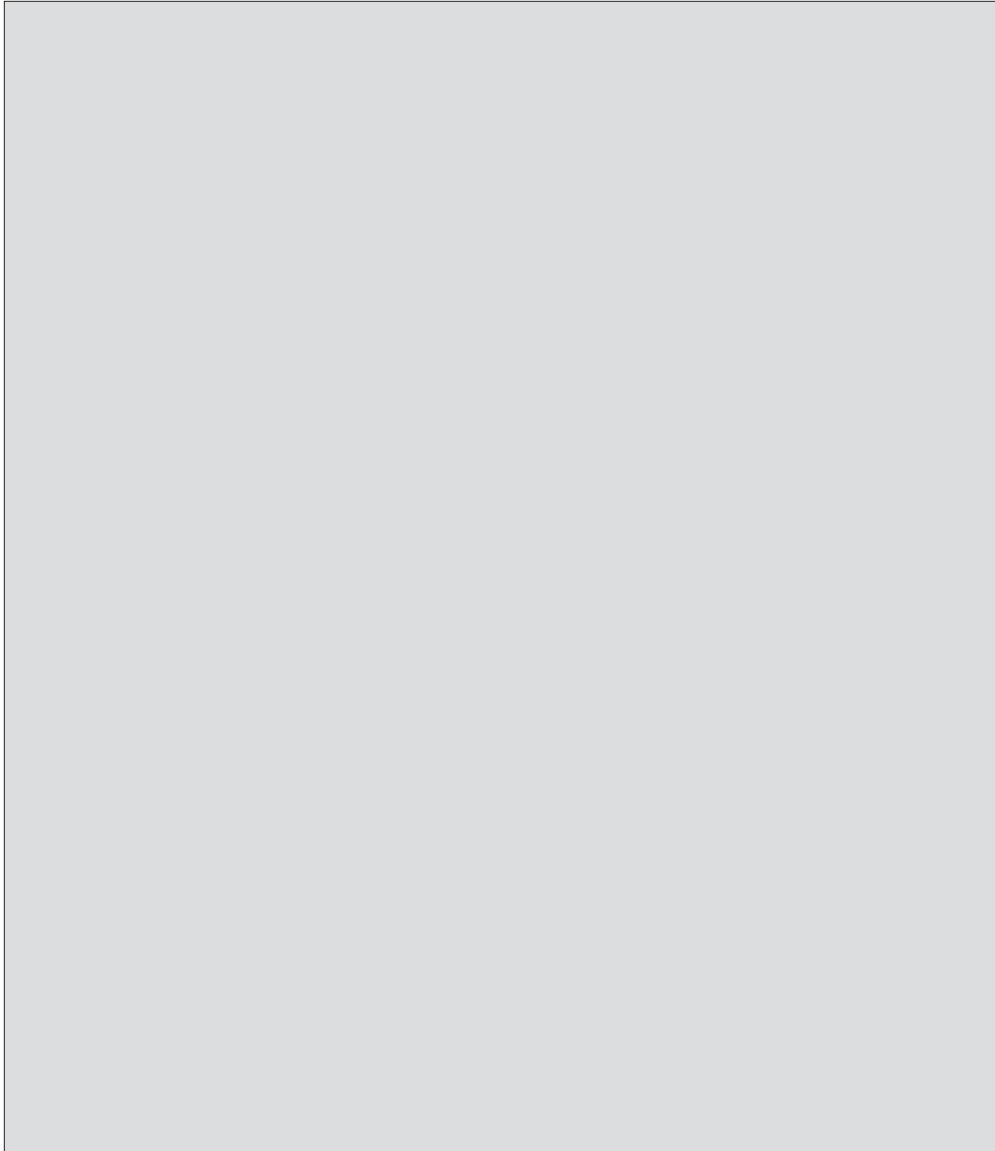
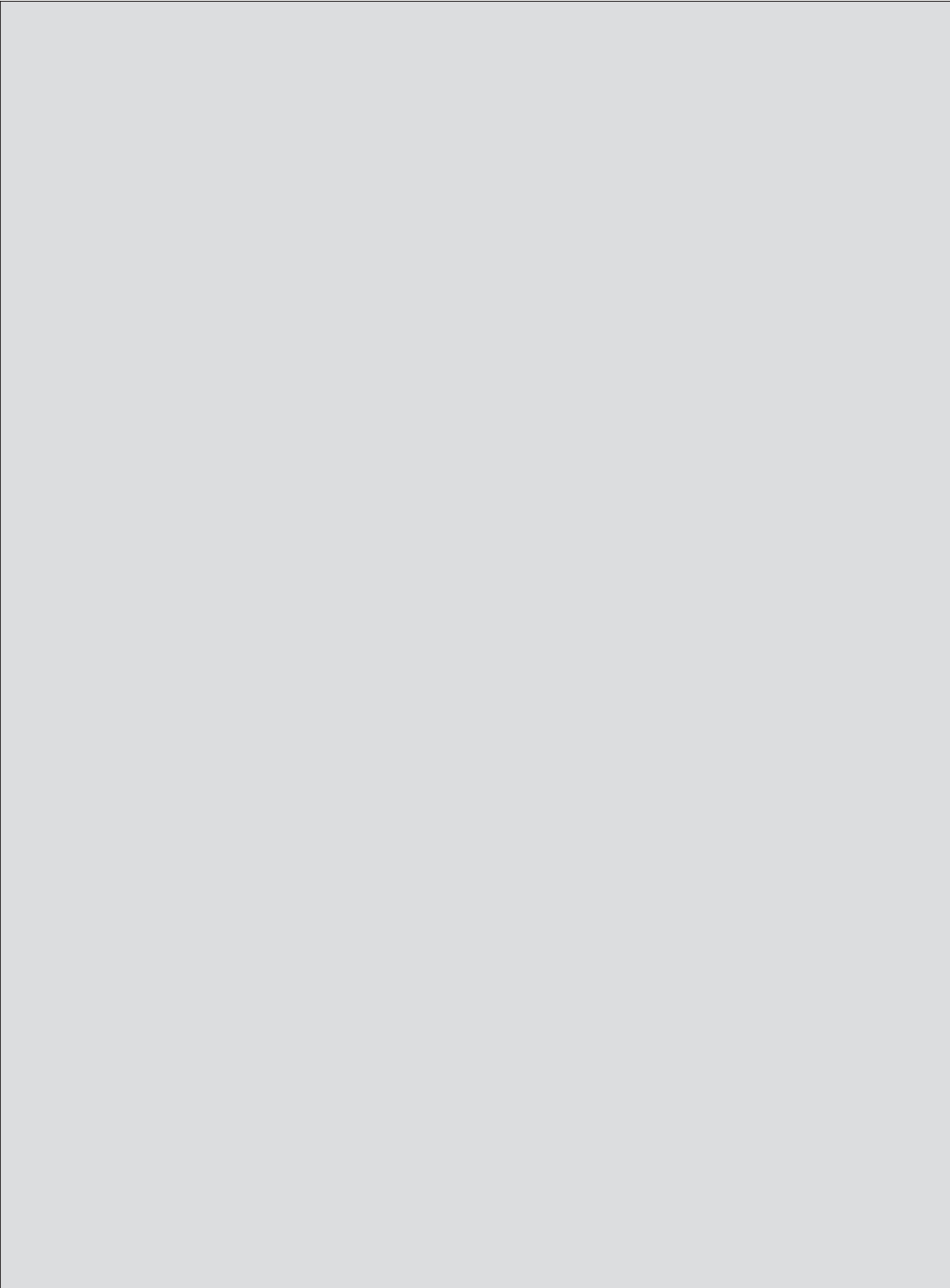
- Activity that causes system degradation.
- Inappropriate or offensive material.
- Illegal activities.
- Sexually explicit or sexually oriented material.
- Business, fundraising, lobbying or political activities.
- Abuse of intellectual property rights.

Some chat rooms violating the standards have been shut down. New chat rooms will go through a preapproval process that officials said should take one day. Any user can request a chat room, but those left idle 30 days or more will

● SEE CHAT PAGE 17



Questions about career options?
Call Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Kahapea, 325th Fighter Wing career assistance advisor, for answers to retraining or special duty questions at 283-2222.



VAC recognizes volunteers during National Volunteer Week

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

What do the Airmen's Attic, the Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity all have in common?

Each of these charitable organizations couldn't do what they do without the help of volunteers.

The Volunteer Advisory Committee knows this, and it made sure Tyndall's volunteers were recognized during National Volunteer Week.

There were many activities throughout the week, including discounts off goods at the Base Exchange for volunteers, a volunteerism display at the base Library provided by the 325th Services Squadron, an open house with door prizes at Tyndall Federal Credit Union and giveaways at the Commissary.

"We have so many people who give so much, we just want to give them some recognition," said Catherine Tarrant, Family Support Center community readiness consultant. "All the hours put in and the services provided by the Tyndall people are phenomenal. Our

volunteers love to help."

Tyndall's love to help shows, with more than 600 people volunteering more than 79,000 hours of their time to such projects as Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, Airmen's Attic and the Red Cross.

In years past, volunteers were recognized solely by the agencies they worked for. The Volunteer Resource Program changed that.

"The VRP's purpose is to recruit, recognize and train volunteers at Tyndall," said Ms. Tarrant.

Besides giving out awards such as Volunteer of the Quarter, the VRP also interviews interested volunteers, she said. After finding out what they enjoy doing, the VRP assists them in getting a position that will benefit both the vol-

unteer and the agency.

"We are a guide for volunteers," said Ms. Tarrant. "We find out what they love to do and help them to have fun."

All of this fun culminated with National Volunteer Week, the highlight being the Volunteer Reception at the Officers' Club.

"We (named) the Volunteers of the Year at the reception," said Ms. Tarrant. "We have two categories. Category 1 is for retirees, federal civilians

and (family members). Category 2 is for active duty military members."

This year the winners were Anne Raabe for Civilian Volunteer of the Year, and Airman 1st Class Derek Hojohn, 325th Comptroller Squadron, for Military Volunteer of the Year.

Awards were also handed out for

Tyndall Retiree Activities Office and Red Cross volunteers. Herman Worrell won for RAO Volunteer of the Year, and Brigid Johnson won for Red Cross Volunteer of the Year.

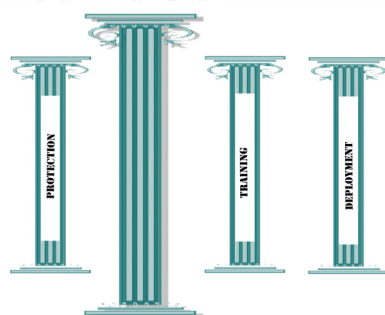
The Air Force Volunteer Excellence award was handed out at the reception as well, said Ms. Tarrant. The award recognizes federal civilians, family members, and military and federal retirees who perform outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained, direct and consequential nature. The award is signed by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and a volunteer can only be selected to receive this award once.

Don Harding, Harlow Russell and Karen Sugg, wife of Chaplain (Capt.) Robert Sugg, took the prize this year.

"At Tyndall, volunteers have provided a seamless positive impact on our community," said Ms. Tarrant. "They are priceless."

For more information on how you can volunteer, call the Family Support Center at 283-4204 or 4205.

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Checkertail Salute

Capt. Doreen Richard



2nd Lt. William Powell

Captain Richard receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Captain Richard, who is a 325th Medical Operations Squadron staff nurse. She has prioritized, based on urgency, more than 200 patient calls, coordinated care for more than 240 patients with chronic medical conditions and contacted 140 women for preventative health services. She also has volunteered for events such as the Special Olympics and squadron fundraisers.

Duty title: Staff nurse
Time on station: Eight months
Time in service: Five years Air Force, nine years Navy
Hometown: Belleville, Ill.
Hobbies: Cake decorating
Goals: Reach major and later become a hospice nurse
Favorite movie: "Tombstone"
Favorite book: The Bible
Favorite thing about Tyndall: The people
Pet peeves: Too little time in the day
Proudest moment in the military: When I received my Air Force commission

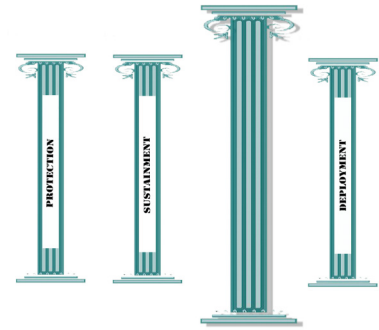
The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Senior Airman Jason Deardorff, 325th Communications Squadron plans and programs project manager.



PEOPLE FIRST


FORCE TRAINING



Training Spotlight

What are you most looking forward to during your training here?

“Finally controlling F-15s and doing more of the operational side of training. It will be challenging and rewarding.”



1ST LT. YOAV CUTHBERTSON
325th Air Control Squadron student

Scopin’ it out:

ABM students finally get to hit the switches while watching the big screen

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Eight years ago, 2nd Lt. Michael Moffeit learned how to fix malfunctioning aircraft radars to keep pilots safe in flight. Now he’s learning how to use a similar radar to identify and track potentially hostile aircraft to keep pilots safe during combat.

The former enlisted avionics technician is now an air battle manager student in his second phase of training here. He and members of Class 06004 are learning to operate the radar scopes for the first time.

To a new student, the equipment may look daunting. Rows and rows of buttons and switches surround a round screen the size of a large pizza. Each button has multiple functions and images on the screen look like tiny insects.

According to Tech. Sgt. Penny Blackburn, 325th Air Control Squadron instructor, the scope training starts off slow, but students normally catch on quickly.

“On the first day of radar scope training, we assign each student a console,” she said. “Each day we teach a new set of ‘switch actions’ and we just keep building upon previous lessons. By the seventh day, the students operate the equipment on their own, and that’s when the instructors discover if the students have actually learned and retained the material.”

The students don’t control simulated or live aircraft during this time. Their job is to just learn the basics, said Sergeant Blackburn.



2nd Lt. William Powell

Second Lt. Michael Moffeit, center, helps 2nd Lt. Laura Hall with a switch configuration Tuesday during their first day at the radar scopes. The air battle manager students will eventually learn to use the scopes to identify and track potentially hostile aircraft and communicate with friendly pilots.

Lieutenant Moffeit, like many other ABM students, has waited nearly a year to begin his technical school training here. The anticipation makes most students excited to sit in front of the scopes for the first time.

“This is something I have been looking forward to since August, and I think it went very well,” he said. “All the switch actions were taught step-by-step. After some time for practice on our own, we were tested on what we learned for the day. Fortunately, it was very easy to learn.”

The lieutenant said he owes his initial console-confidence to his instructors and their ability to train what could be a very confusing subject.

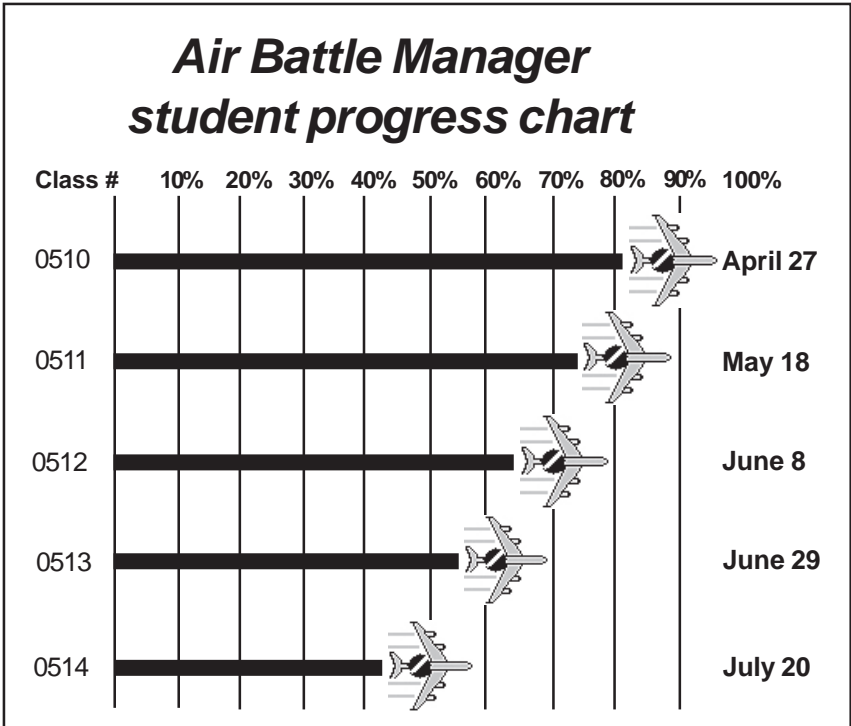
“(Sergeant Blackburn) ensured everyone had a good grasp of the console basics before moving on to the next level,” he said. “Luckily, we’re given every opportunity to practice what we’re taught, and the instructors provide a wealth of knowledge for us to draw from here.”

Dippin’ for chips

Airman Dustin Klinge, 372nd Training Squadron/Detachment 1 Mission Ready Airmen student, checks chip detectors on the motor of an F-15 Eagle during preflight inspection training Monday here. Airman Klinge started school here April 12 with Class 2005010. He and his classmates will graduate May 9.

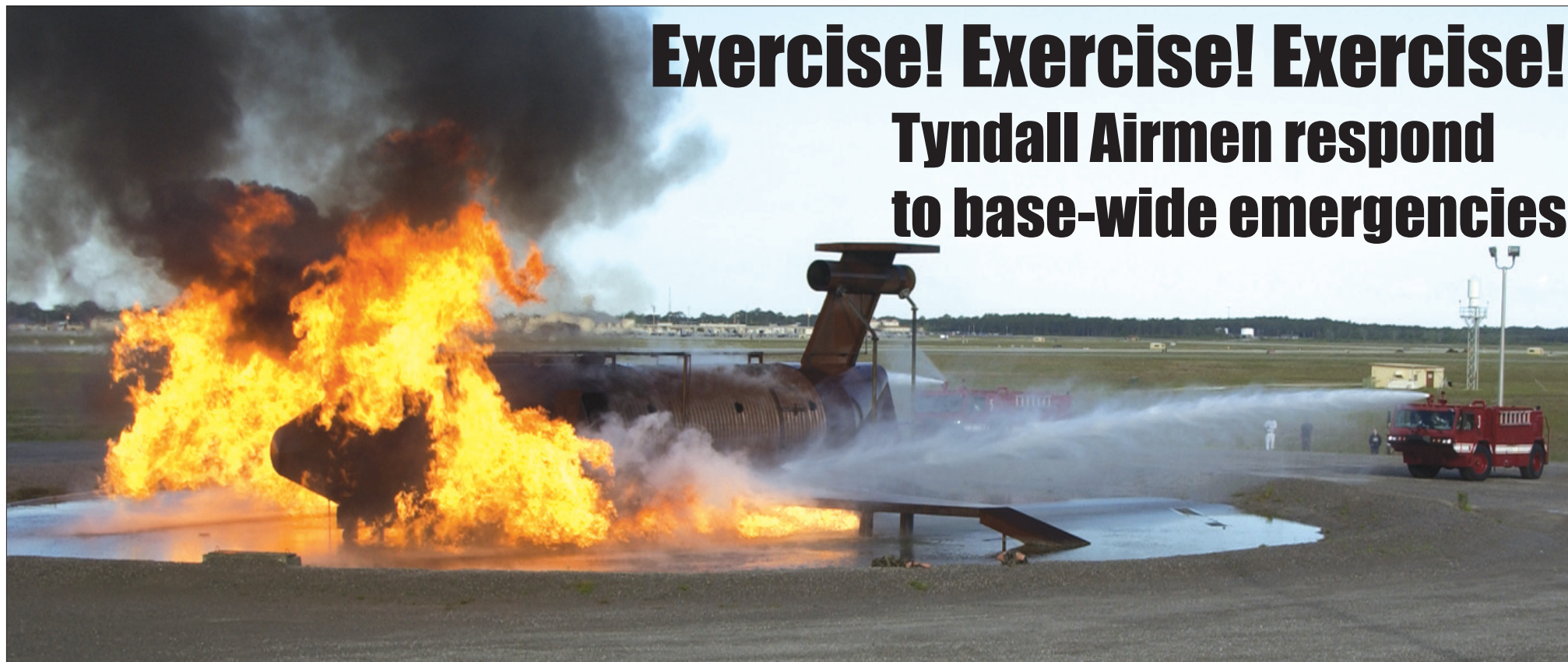


Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rojek



Exercise! Exercise! Exercise!

Tyndall Airmen respond to base-wide emergencies



Right: Emergency responders from the 325th Medical Group, along with firefighters from the 325th Civil Engineer Squadron, load Airman 1st Class Ashley Kelley, 325th CES, onto a litter to be transported to the hospital. Airman Kelley played an injured person during the major accident response exercise April 13 here. This was the last major exercise here before the upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection.

Below: A firefighter with the 325th CES prepares to enter a 'burning' building. The firefighters tested their response time, as well as how they handle emergency procedures. During the June inspection, every unit on base will be evaluated on how they respond to things such as force protection upgrades and deployment lines.





Above left: Senior Airman Aaron Brooks, 325th CES firefighter, speaks with a 'burn victim' April 13 at the MARE. Firefighters and 325th MDG emergency responders treated many accident victims on-scene. Above right: Staff Sgt. Beatriz Webb, Base Legal Office, discusses issues with her mobility folder with Tech. Sgt. David Wilder, 325th Mission Support Squadron, Chaplain (1st Lt.) Daniel Call, 325th Fighter Wing, and Airman 1st Class Celene Delice, 325th MSS. More than 160 Tyndall Airmen processed through the mobility line to simulate deploying during the exercise. While going through the line, the Airmen had to hand-carry their mobility folders, which included such items as ID cards, dog tags, DD Form 93 and other important forms. Left: Master Sgt. Troy Winslow, 325th Security Forces Squadron, coordinates with the security forces control center and patrolmen to control traffic and create a safe cordon for firefighters. Security forces not only create a cordon for the firefighters, they also block off a safe quarter for emergency responders to take care of victims. If needed, they will shut roads down, including Highway 98, with the help of local authorities.



Photos by Steve Wallace

Briefs

RAO volunteers

The Retiree Activities Office is seeking volunteers to assist with the various tasks associated with running the office. The RAO is an all-volunteer organization that provides assistance and information to Tyndall's retiree community on retiree-related issues. Those interested in volunteering should contact the office at 283-2737 or by e-mail at tyndall.RAO@tyndall.af.mil.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Summer 2005 Term registration will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 9–13 at the Tyndall Education Center in Room 48. Class dates are May 31 to Aug. 1. For more information, call 283-4557.

Gulf Coast Community College

The next Tyndall Center placement test will be held 1 p.m. May 4. Advanced payment of \$4 will guarantee a spot. Test results are immediate and students will be able to register for classes upon receiving the results. There will also be a book swap from 4–6 p.m. May 2–3 in the commons area of the Education Center. In addition, GCCC will be holding Microsoft classes. The Excel Basic course is from 8–11 a.m. May 16–20. The cost for the course is \$70 and the cost for the books is \$22.50. For more information, call 283-4332.

CCAF graduation

There will be a Community College of the Air Force graduation from 1–4:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Enlisted Club Ballroom. The Education Center will be closed for business during this time. For more information, call 283-4285.

Powerlifting competition

The Fitness Center is hosting a powerlifting competition beginning at 8:30 a.m. May 7 with weigh-ins. The competition starts at 10 a.m. Deadline for entry is April 29, and applications can be picked up at the Fitness Center. For more information, call 283-2631.

Softball tournament

The King of the Hill softball tournament takes place May 10–12. It is open to all base intramural teams. The tournament uses a double elimination format with American Softball Association rules. There will also be a home run and base running contest. The entry fee is \$125 per team, and teams must sign up by May 6. Payments are due May 9 at the coaches meeting. To sign up or for more information, contact Eric North at 283-3887.

Powerful Parenting

The Tyndall Community Center offers Powerful Parenting for Moms and Pops of Tots

Got ITT?

Airman 1st Class Josh Davis and 2nd Lt. Cheri Guikema, both from 325th Mission Support Squadron, chat with Shelly Kujawa, a travel sales coordinator, during the Information, Tickets & Tours travel show April 15 at the Enlisted Club. Hundreds of Tyndall Airmen and family members attended the annual event to learn more about travel opportunities from more than 65 travel representatives.



2nd Lt. William Powell

each Wednesday from 9–10:30 a.m. Bring ideas on how to make this a fun, exciting and educational experience for all. For more information, contact Laurie Campbell at 286-6501 or e-mail znory7@yahoo.com.

Volunteers needed

The Tyndall Volunteer Resource Program serves as the central base resource for volunteer recruitment, placement and recognition. The program assists individuals seeking volunteer opportunities to meet their volunteer goals and authorized organizations and agencies to recruit qualified volunteers. Volunteers are currently needed at Family Services/Airman's Attic, the Red Cross, Retiree Activities Office, 325th Services Squadron and other locations at Tyndall. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 283-4204/4205.

Manpower personnel needed

The Air Force Manpower and Organization Career Field seeks qualified enlisted personnel, in the pay grades of E-4 and E-5, to retrain into the manpower career field, AFSC 3S3X1. If this is a career you are interested in, please contact Tech. Sgt. Robert Stegemeyer, Manpower and Organization Flight NCO-in-charge, at 283-8277 for a personal interview.

Tricare news

The Tricare Management Activity has contracted with Westat Incorporated, a survey research firm in the Washington, D.C. area, to conduct a nationwide telephone survey of Tricare beneficiaries on behalf of the Communications and Customer Service Directorate. The survey will gather information about beneficiary Web preferences and will explore findings of a similar February 2004 survey

which indicated customers consider Tricare call centers difficult to use.

The survey will be made for approximately six weeks. The study design calls for 10-minute phone interviews with recent Tricare benefit users and will probably require calling approximately 5,000 households.

The Medical Support Squadron assures the legitimacy and importance of this survey, as it will help the DOD and their Humana partners identify and resolve issues with the new Tricare information resources.

Office closure

The 325th Civil Engineer Squadron will be closed for an official function beginning at noon May 6. For emergencies, please call customer service at 283-4949.

Thrift Shop hours

Normal hours are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday–Friday. Consignments are 9:30–11:30 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday. For more information, call 286-5888.

Free pre-kindergarten screening

Bay District Schools and the Florida Diagnostic Learning Resources Systems/Panhandle Area Educational Consortium sponsors free Pre-K screenings for 3- to 4-year-old children Thursday and May 11. Children will be screened in the areas of speech and language, motor skills, school readiness skills, vision and hearing. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 872-4857.

Garage Sales

3611B Etchberger Road
2049B Falcon St.

Garage sales are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

Chapel Schedule**Weekly Bible study**

The Bible study "Life Without Strife" meets from 6:30–8 p.m. every Tuesday night at the Spiritual Fitness building by Chapel Two, in Room 108.

Catholic services

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday–Friday, Chapel Two
Reconciliation - before Saturday Mass or by appointment
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel Two
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m., Chapel Two
Religious Education, 11 a.m., Bldg. 1476

Protestant services

Traditional worship service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One
Religious education classes, 9:30–10:30 a.m., Bldg. 1476
Contemporary worship service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two
Wednesday Fellowship, 5 p.m., Chapel Two

Jewish Passover schedule

This year, Passover is preceded by the Sabbath which begins this evening. Passover will be observed from sundown, Saturday through sunset, May 1. The first two days, Sunday and Monday, and the last two days, April 30 and May 1, are days of religious obligation for people of the Jewish faith.

Passover Seder will be 6 p.m. Saturday, at Temple B'Nai Israel, 1910 Frankford Ave., Panama City. For more information, call Nathan Miller at Temple B'Nai Israel at 522-8625.

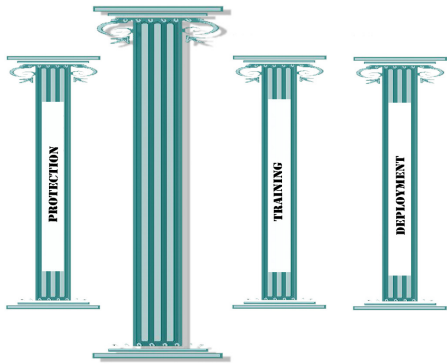


2nd Lt. William Powell

Wax on, wax off

Samantha Smith, left, Peter Fernandez, center, and Kieran McMullin practice self-defense moves during karate practice Tuesday at the Youth Center. Nearly 20 children and adults participated in the weekly practice, which teaches children to respect authority figures and builds self-confidence and self-discipline. For more information, contact the Youth Center at 283-4366.

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



Are We There Yet?
6 p.m. Thursday

The fledgling romance between Nick (Ice Cube), a playboy bachelor, and Suzanne (Nia Long), a divorced mother of two, is threatened by a particularly harrowing New Year’s Eve. When Suzanne’s work keeps her in Vancouver for the holiday, Nick offers to bring her kids to the city from Portland, Oregon. The kids, who have never liked any of the men their mom has dated, are determined to turn the trip into a nightmare for Nick.

Hitch
6 p.m. May 5

While helping his latest client woo the lady of his dreams, a professional “date doctor” (Will Smith) finds his old routine doesn’t quite work on the gossip columnist (Eva Mendez) with whom he’s smitten.

(All movie information courtesy of www.imdb.com. Used with permission.)

Coming up ...

Man of the House

6 p.m. May 12

Intramural Sports Standings

Volleyball



Team	Win	Loss
AMXS	10	0
95 FS	8	1
MXS	6	2
MDG	8	3
ACS 1	6	3
CONR	6	5
AFCESA	4	4
RHS	3	5
SEADS	4	7
SVS	3	6
COMM	2	7
53 WEG/82 TRS	1	10
ACS 2	0	8

Soccer

Team	Win	Loss	Tie
ACS	7	0	1
OSS	6	1	1
372 TRS	5	2	0
CES	5	2	0
SFS	4	4	0
TEST	4	4	0
SEADS	3	5	0
COMM	2	6	0
MXS	1	6	0
83 FWS	0	7	0



Golf



Team	Points
SEADS	6
OSS	6
327nd TRS	6
CES	6
RHS	5.5
MSS	5.5
CONR1	5.5
MXS	4.5
AMXS	3.5
AFCESA	3.5
CS2	2.5
CS1	2.5
ACS	1.5
CONR2	0.5
53rd	0.5
MDG	0.5
83rd	0
SFS	0
1st FS	0
SVS	0



Funshine NEWS



Produced by the 325th Services Squadron

www.325thservices.com

MAY IS FITNESS MONTH



May is Fitness Month here at Tyndall AFB! All month long the Fitness Center will host events that will keep you in top physical condition. Come on out and enjoy the FUN!

May 2 - 1.5 Mile Beach Run

May 9 - 10K

May 11 - Strive Demo

May 14 - Gulf Coast Salute 5K

May 21 - MARATHON MANIA

1/2 Marathon

Family Fun Run

Cardiothon

May 23 - HAWC "Eating to be Fit"

May 27 - Chiefs vs. Eagles Softball



CORRECTION

Last week's "Funshine News" page incorrectly reported that summer hours had already begun at the Outdoor Recreation facility in the Bonita Bay Complex. The summer hours actually begin May 1. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused, and hope you will continue to use the Outdoor Recreation facility for all your outdoor fun.



All ranks at the Tyndall Enlisted Club

Free Movie Night

Thursday

The Haunted Mansion

Rated PG

Movie 6 p.m.

A family receives a mysterious phone call one day asking them to check out a house that is going to be put up for sale. They arrive to find the place complete with hidden passages, a cemetery in the back yard, an eccentric owner, creepy butler, and plenty of unruly and unsettled ghosts in the "Haunted Mansion."

Snack Bar items include

Pizza, hot dogs, chili dogs, nachos, popcorn, candy, & soda.

Youth under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Movies subject to availability.

283-4357

Community Center

☎ 283-2495

Pilates instructor

The cardio center is looking for an additional Pilates instructor. If you have the right qualifications, call 283-2495.

Leisure Travel

Looking for a great short vacation getaway? Check out a five-day Key West and Bahamas Cruise out of Jacksonville, Fla. Aug. 22. Two people can get an inside stateroom starting at \$761, or an oceanview stateroom starting at \$880.

Call Nancy at 283-2864 or stop by the Tyndall Community Center Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and book your summer getaway while fantastic military discount rates are still available. Also, there are many other cruise and vacation options for you to choose from.

Auto Detailer Needed

The Tyndall Community Center is looking for an auto detailer. For more information, contact the Community Center at 283-2495.

Pizza Pub in the Tyndall Community Center

NASCAR race Saturday night!

Subway Fresh 500

at the
Phoenix International Raceway

Race begins at 6:30 p.m.

Races shown at the Pizza Pub.

Prizes for participation will be given at each event. Must be a current club member to win.

283-3222 for details

Air Force Club Scholarship Program



Applicants must be accepted by, or enrolled in, an accredited college or university graduate or undergraduate program by fall of 2005. Information packages with complete instructions and requirements are available from the Tyndall Officers' Club.

First place
\$6,000

Entry deadline
is July 15.

There are six scholarships to be awarded to Air Force Club members or their eligible family members.

283-4357

for more information

Sponsored in part by:
CHASE and MasterCard.

No federal endorsement of sponsor intended.

Outdoor Recreation

☎ 283-3199

FISHING CHARTERS

by Capt. Milton Tarpley

From Bonita Bay (max 4 people)

Full Day - \$275

Half Day - \$225

From Port St. Joe

Full Day - \$255

Half Day - \$205

Register and pay at Bonita Bay for both sites. Vendor will provide the boat, fishing gear, and guide.



For more information call
283-3199

Tyndall SHOW & SHINE

Cruise-In

CARS TRUCKS



Show off your wheels

Today
4:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Refreshments, tasty food and great music. Come enjoy the view!

Air Force Club Members receive complimentary food.



Contact Susan Pummill at 283-1108 or e-mail susan.pummill@tyndall.af.mil. No base sticker? No problem, call the above number today for details and registration. **Deadline April 18, 2005**



MOTORCYCLES



● FROM NATURE PAGE 2

control technology, will assist developing nations in minimizing or preventing their environmental problems.

While it is easy to get discouraged when considering the gravity of some of these issues, each one of us can be part of the solution. Although it may be a cliché to, “Think globally, but act locally,” it is still a sound and effective approach to the problem.

Things that we, as individual citizens of Tyndall, can do include participating in our energetic base-wide recycling program at home and in the office; getting involved with the annual beach

clean-up; minimizing the use of lawn pesticides and fertilizer which may wash off into surrounding surface waters; keeping car engines tuned to reduce air emissions; as well as planting a tree and using backyard composting units.

During the past 10 years at Tyndall, I have often heard Air Force personnel say they requested to come back to Tyndall because it is a beautiful place to live and work. I’m sure many of you have heard or thought the same. As we use this day to honor the Earth as our home, let us each make a renewed commitment to do whatever we can to leave it a better place.

“While it is easy to get discouraged ... each one of us can be part of the solution.”

BERT LENT
325th Civil Engineer Squadron

● FROM CHAT PAGE 9

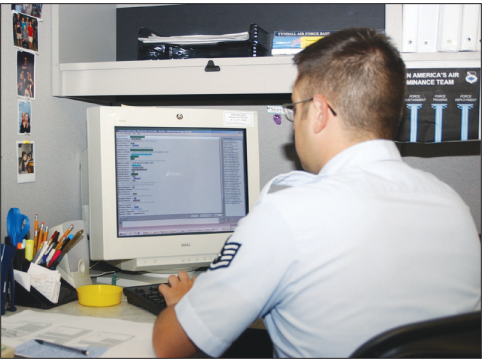
be deleted. Chat room operators will be notified to revalidate existing rooms, or face shutdown, officials said.

Portal officials said they encourage use that is consistent with policy, standards and core values. They said organizations across the Air Force are experimenting with new ways of doing business using the portal and instant messenger.

“For example, during inclement weather many groups continue to work by collaborating from home,” Major Gindhart said.

Some Airmen even use the system to control their supply chain. And, the Friend’s and Family Instant Messenger function that started in December has turned out to be a popular way for families back home to stay in touch with Airmen who are deployed, officials said.

“AFIM usage has many benefits because it is a real-time, low-bandwidth alternative to e-mail,” Major Gindhart



2nd Lt. William Powell

An NCO checks out a chat room on the Air Force Portal. Air Force officials have recently clarified chat guidelines after reports of chat room abuse.

added. “However, we must ensure it is used responsibly.

“If you’re uncomfortable with the behavior in a chat room, or find it incompatible with Air Force core values, please don’t hesitate to use the self-monitoring and reporting functions we’ve installed,” Major Gindhart said.

There's only one way
to come out ahead
of the pack.

QUIT

American Heart
Association
WE'RE FIGHTING FOR
YOUR LIFE

“Help Our Troops Call Home” program nears \$2 million in contributions

DALLAS – On April 15, 2004, the Department of Defense made an unprecedented move; it authorized the Exchange Services to sell prepaid calling cards to any individual or organization that wished to purchase cards for deployed troops.

Never in the Army & Air Force Exchange Service’s 109-year history had the organization sold anything to anyone other than authorized customers, primarily active-duty, guard and reserve members, retirees and their family members. As the first anniversary of this decision approaches, the since-named “Help Our Troops Call Home” program is within striking distance of the \$2 million mark.

As of April 12, AAFES’ calling card initiative has generated \$1,980,030 to help Airmen, Soldiers, Marines and Sailors stay in touch with loved ones back home. These funds have been used to purchase and distribute 78,431 Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone cards.

Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone cards purchased through the “Help Our Troops Call

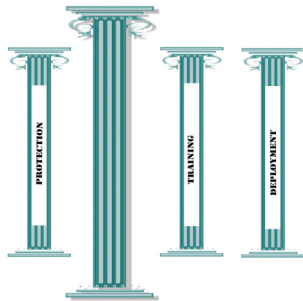
Home” program can be sent to individual service members or “any service member” through the American Red Cross, United Service Organizations, Air Force Aid Society or the Fisher House Foundation. These charitable partners have distributed 26,767 phone cards since the “Help Our Troops Call Home” program began last year.

“The outpouring of support over the course of the past 12 months has been inspiring,” said Lt. Col. Debra Pressley, AAFES chief of corporate communication. “The decision to allow the Exchange Services to work directly with the American public has provided a textbook study in how to safely and effectively support our troops.”

Sixty-four AAFES phone centers throughout Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom have been critical in keeping deployed troops and their families in touch. Troops using Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone cards at these calling centers generated nearly 20 million total minutes of calls in February alone.

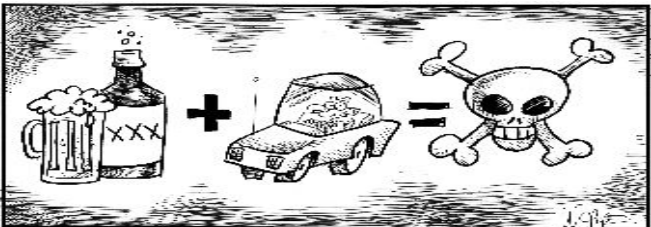
The Military Exchange 550- and 200-Unit Prepaid Phone cards of-

FORCE SUSTAINMENT



fer the best value for troops who enjoy calls home from any of AAFES’ call centers in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. In addition to offering the lowest rates, Military Exchange Global Prepaid Phone cards do not expire and are not subject to any additional charges or connection fees.

The “Help Our Troops Call Home” initiative allows any American to make a direct contribution to the morale of troops who find themselves far from home. Individuals, organizations and businesses can log on to www.aafes.com and click the “Help Our Troops Call Home” link or call 1-800-527-2345 for more information.



Alternative fuels come to Tyndall

STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN ROJEK
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

In the near future, alternative fuels for Tyndall-owned vehicles may no longer be the ‘alternative,’ said Tyndall’s director of logistics and readiness.

Avelino Reyes-Alfonso, 325th Logistics Readiness Division, said that the change to alternative fuels, such as biodiesel or alcohol-gasoline blends, is driven by cost and the fact that fossil fuels are becoming scarce.

“Alternative is a relative term,” said Mr. Reyes-Alfonso. “The use of renewable fuel sources was something we once saw over the horizon. Well, it’s now here.”

The idea of using new fuels began with the Energy Policy Act of 1992, said Robert Flirt, 325th Logistics Readiness Division quality assurance professional. The act set goals for energy security. Eventually the Department of Defense established its own strategy, calling for the procurement of alternative fuels and compatible vehicles.

“In the last year, the cost of diesel fuel has gone up from 90 cents to \$1.40,” said Mr. Flirt. “Biodiesel only costs \$1.31. If you do a lot of driving, and your squadron



Courtesy photo

Steve Jordan, a Del-Jen fuels technician, fills up a gas tank with biodiesel fuel at the main fuels complex in the 400 Area here recently. Tyndall will be getting a new gas station in the near future that will have all fuels, from alcohol-gasoline blends to regular diesel, in one location. The new fuels are less expensive than regular fuel.

doesn’t have the funds, that price difference is going to cost you.”

Mr. Reyes-Alfonso said the move to alternative fuels is good for the government because the price is set for the fiscal year.

But that’s not the only reason those who drive government-owned vehicles should fill up with B-20, a blend of 80 percent diesel fuel and 20 percent vegetable oil.

“There are a lot of advantages to using this fuel,” said Mr. Flirt. “We can reduce greenhouse gases by 35 to 40 percent. It can also increase the

horsepower of the vehicle by five percent.”

And the fuel is already at Tyndall. Drivers of GOVs looking to fuel up can drive over to the main fuels complex in the 400 Area here and use the B-20 gas pump.

GOV operators will have to have their vehicle identification link key recoded to use the B-20 pumps, said Mr. Flirt. The keys can be recoded at the Fuels Management Office in Bldg. 400.

“The whole process doesn’t take more than a minute or two,” said Mr. Reyes-Alfonso.

The goal, according to Mr. Flirt, is to get every GOV operator on base using alternative fuels, because, within the year, Tyndall will have a new gas station and another alternative fuel: E-85, which is 85 percent alcohol and 15 percent gasoline.

“We plan on having the new gas station within the next six months, after we receive the funding,” said Mr. Reyes-Alfonso. “When we get the new station, it will have all the fuels at one place. Our goal is 100 percent customer satisfaction.”



Lisa Norman

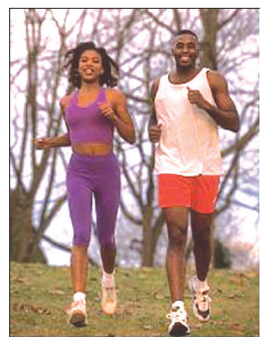
Dino-mite!

Moe Egginton, left, Karen Murphy and Kim Schneider perform a skit based on the “Flintstones” at the 325th Operations Group Officers’ Spouses’ Dining-In April 15 at the Tyndall Officers’ Club. The event celebrated past, present and future military spouses and their dedication and contributions to the Air Force and the community.

Don't fight
staying fit ...



Stay fit to
fight. Get up,
work out!



WWII veteran returns to Tyndall 60 years later

CHRISTINE A. SULLIVAN

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

As he gazed out over the Tyndall AFB flightline filled with fighter jets in the air and on the ramp, his eyes filled with tears.

"I apologize for being so emotional," Jesse Harper said. "But, this is one of the best days of my life and I'm never going to forget it."

A visit to Tyndall recently was the first time this 90-year-old World War II veteran had been back to his 'old stomping grounds' in more than 60 years after a long and distinguished career in the military.

Jesse Harper attended gunnery school here back in January and February of 1943. He entered school as a private and graduated six weeks later as a staff sergeant on what was then called Tyndall Field in the service of the U.S. Army Air Forces.

"We were restricted to the base," Mr. Harper said. "We never did get to see Panama City proper."

A grueling schedule that consisted of 17-hour days was the norm for training back in those days. That schedule included eight hours of classroom time and strenuous physical training.

"We crawled under wire netting that was no more than 20 inches above the ground," Mr. Harper remembered. "Live 30-caliber machine guns were being fired across our path and we were really hoping it stayed above the wire."

After graduating Tyndall gunnery school, Mr. Harper was shipped to Avon Park Bombing Range in Florida to continue his training and then sent directly into combat over in Europe.



Christine Sullivan

Jesse Harper and his wife survey the flightline while on a base tour here recently. Mr. Harper went to gunnery school here in 1943 with the U.S. Army Air Forces.

Mr. Harper survived three plane crashes, more than a year's internment and torture in a prisoner-of-war stalag camp in Germany during WWII, and shook the hand of President Dwight D. Eisenhower after his freedom was secured.

He considers himself more than blessed to be able to return to Tyndall and get a tour of the base.

"This is where it all started," Mr. Harper said. "I am more proud of the men and women in military service here than I ever was. Some things never change!"

Privacy of personal information explained in Tricare notice

Recently, Tricare mailed out the Notice of Privacy Practices to military members. This notice explains how the military health system may use and share personal health information to carry out treatment, payment, health care operations, or other reasons allowed or required by law.

Personal health information includes past, present or future physical or mental health or condition and related health care services. It could also include such things as a person's age, ethnicity and other personal statistics.

The notice explains military members' rights to read and control their protected health information. It also explains the responsibility the military health system has to protect beneficiaries. It is provided for information only and will not affect eligibility to receive care.

The Tyndall Clinic will be asking all active duty military who visit to sign a medical record label that confirms they received the notice. This is to make sure that all Tricare beneficiaries have been informed of their right to privacy over their personal health information.

There are other rights beneficiaries have as well:

The right to read and copy their protected health information

The right to ask for limits to be put on the use or sharing of their protected health information

The right to ask that communications about their personal health information be done through ways that further protect their privacy

The right to ask to have corrections made to their protected health information

And, the right to get a listing of where and when their protected health information was shared

Those who feel that any of their health information privacy rights have been violated can call Lisa Beckwith, 325th Medical Group military treatment facility privacy officer, at 283-7750, or 1st Lt. Erin Race, 325th MDG security officer, at 283-7167. They can also contact Tricare at 1-800-444-5445.

People who did not receive a copy of the notice in the mail can view it on the 325th MDG Web site at www.tyndall.af.mil/325MDG/325mdg.htm, or on the TMA Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/hipaa/.

(Courtesy of the 325th Medical Group)

